

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 were pending. In the present response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9, leaving claims 1-13 pending in the present application for the Examiner's consideration. No new matter has been added.

In summary of the Office Action of June 16, 2004, the Examiner has:

I. Objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it exceeds the limit of 150 words;

II. Objected to the disclosure because information regarding related applications cited in page 3 has not been updated;

III. Objected to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 8, 2004 for failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2) for not submitting a copy of reference AE;

IV. Rejected Claims 1-3 and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacPhail (U.S. Patent No. 5,179,718); and

V. Rejected Claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacPhail in view of IBM "Technical Disclosure Bulletin".

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

I. Objection to the Abstract

Applicants have amended the abstract to comply with the word limit. The amendment is intended only to comply with the formal requirements of an application and is not intended to alter the scope of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

II. Objection to the Disclosure

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because information regarding related applications cited in page 3 has not been updated. Applicants believe that their amendment of November 7, 2002 updated this portion of the disclosure with information regarding related applications. Applicants respectfully request that the changes to the disclosure in the amendment of November 7, 2002 be entered, if the Examiner has not already done so, and respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

III. Objection to the Information Disclosure Statement of April 8, 2004

The Examiner has objected to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 8, 2004 for failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2) because the copy of reference AE was not legible. Included with the present response is another copy of reference AE and a copy of the postcard filed with the Information Disclosure Statement of April 8, 2004. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of reference AE and the withdrawal of this objection.

IV. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 6-13 as unpatentable over MacPhail (U.S. Patent No. 5,179,718). Claim 1 recites in part:

cryptographically securing the staple data object in response to receipt of the staple instruction, thereby indicating the existence and integrity of the association of selected pages and selected documents together at one time.
(Emphasis Added)

The Applicants respectfully submit that MacPhail does not disclose or suggest this element.

One goal of the invention of claim 1 is to provide a way to prevent and detect tampering with associations of electronic documents. To this end, claim 1 calls for "cryptographically securing the staple data object . . . , thereby indicating the existence and integrity of the association of selected pages and selected documents." One technique for cryptographically

securing a set of documents to protect its integrity is to compute "a cryptographic checksum . . . for the stack of documents and [to affix] the user's, or the system's, digital signature . . . to the stack's cover sheet. (p.2, 27-28). If the set of documents is tampered with, either by changing the contents of a document or removing a document from the set, the value of the cryptographic checksum of the set of documents will be different than the checksum value previously affixed to the cover sheet with the digital signature.

McPhail discloses "specify[ing] a security level to associate within the document that is being filed" (Col. 4, Lines 56-64). This security level prevents unauthorized users from accessing documents. (Col. 4, Lines 56-64). However, the security level disclosed by MacPhail does not protect the integrity of associated documents. Once a user has access to a document, there is nothing in MacPhail to detect the alteration of its contents. There is nothing in MacPhail that discloses or suggests that this security level can deter or detect document tampering by an otherwise authorized user, or even that document integrity is a concern.

In the current office action, the Examiner concedes that "MacPhail does not explicitly specifically teach 'cryptographically securing the data object in response to receipt of the staple instruction.'" The Examiner states that McPhail's disclosure of a security level would make it obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to cryptographically secure the data object in order to provide means for controlling access to the document during its life in the library. The Applicants respectfully submit that the issue of access is irrelevant to the claimed invention, because claim 1 specifically calls for using cryptography to protect the integrity of documents.

Because there is nothing in MacPhail or otherwise known in the art that discloses or suggests "cryptographically securing the staple data object . . . , thereby indicating the existence and integrity of the association of selected pages and selected documents," as recited by claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over MacPhail. Claim 9 recites elements similar to claim 1 and Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 9 and its dependents are patentable over MacPhail for similar reasons.

V. Rejection of Claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 and 5 as unpatentable over MacPhail in view of "IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin." As discussed, MacPhail does not disclose or suggest "cryptographically securing the staple data object . . . , thereby indicating the existence and integrity of the association of selected pages and selected documents," as recited by the parent of the rejected claims. Similarly, there is nothing in "IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin" that discloses or suggests any need or means for protecting document integrity. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 4 and 5 are patentable.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believe all claims now pending in this Application are patentable and in condition for allowance and respectfully request an action to that end.

The Applicant invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned if he believes a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

12/16/04
Date


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TO THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

Please stamp the date of receipt of the following documents(s), and return this card to us.

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Date Due: April 5, 2004

Appln. No.: 09/302,552

Date Mailed: April 5, 2004

File No.: 015358-004600US

Atty/Sec.: J. Hollander/dk/gh
60185269 v1



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712 / Research Disclosure - September 1992

34145
Verfahren zur Klassifizierung einer Banknote oder einer Münze

Das Verfahren ermöglicht ausgeprägte Trenngrenzen für ähnliche Signale zu berechnen, die ein Sensor beispielsweise für eine echte Banknote bzw. für eine Kopie dieser Banknote liefert. Das von einem Sensor gelieferte Signal kann als ein aus einem Nutzsignal und einem Rauschen zusammengesetztes Signal aufgefasst werden.

Von einem Sensor gelieferte Signale eines Prüfings werden einer Zeitreihenanalyse unterworfen, welche die Differenzengleichung eines stochastischen Prozesses liefert. Das auf diese Art ermittelte Prozessmodell ermöglicht eine Filterung des Nutzsignals vom Rauschen.

Aus dem gefilterten Nutzsignal und dem getrennten Rauschen (Residuum) wird die Trenngrenze berechnet, welche somit deterministische Merkmale des gefilterten Nutzsignals wie auch des Rauschens in einer Größe vereinigt. Die Trenngrenze weist für Originale bzw. Kopien oder Fälschungen unterschiedliche Verteilungen auf, so dass der Prüfling aufgrund des Wertes der Trenngrenze sicher als echt oder falsch klassifiziert werden kann.

Zur Filterung des Nutzsignals vom Rauschen wird vorteilhaft ein Kalman Filter verwendet (R. E. Kalman et al: Topics in Mathematical System Theory, McGraw-Hill, New York). Da bei der Ermittlung der Trenngrenze keine Kreuzkorrelation zwischen dem Signal des Prüfings und einem Referenzsignal notwendig ist, entfällt eine technisch aufwendige Synchronisierung der beiden Signale.

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34146
Direct Manipulation Stapler Icon

A technique is disclosed to implement a stapler icon in order to use direct manipulation techniques to attach objects together. The stapler icon could be used in the following ways: Drag and Drop - with this technique, users select the objects to be stapled together and then drag and drop them on the staple icon. This action would cause the objects to be attached and subsequent actions on one (such as Send) would include the others. Drag Over - this technique is used when users want to attach objects together and follow immediately with another direct manipulation action. For example, to staple two items together and send them, the user could select the objects, drag them over the stapler icon, and then drop them on a mailbox icon. Action-object drag and drop - With this technique, the user picks up the stapler icon and drags it over or drops it on objects he or she wishes to staple together.

34147
RLS Translation of Packed Decimal Fields

Disclosed is a program that will convert packed decimal fields from RBCDIC to ASCII and vice-versa.

A packed decimal field is always assumed to be an integer. Each of the 10 decimal digits is represented by 4 bits, with a maximum number of digits allowable of 31 plus 4 bits that represent the sign of the number. The sign of a packed decimal number must be converted to be able to flow through multiple operating system codepages.

The disclosed program accepts an input and output codepage and understands the conversion rules for packed decimal numbers from EBCDIC to ASCII and vice-versa. If supplied codepages are in different character sets then the conversion would be performed. The conversion would convert only the last 4 bits (right side) of the last byte (right side) which is changed as follows: Hexadecimal 'B' (if negative and output code page is ASCII). Hexadecimal '7' (if positive and output code page is ASCII). Hexadecimal 'D' (if negative and output code page is EBCDIC). Hexadecimal 'C' (if positive and output code page is EBCDIC). The rest of the numeric packed decimal data is the same between codepages.

An EBCDIC 123 would be stored as '123C' with an ASCII 123 being stored '1233'.

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34148
Stepper Motor in A Continuous Drive Application

Stepper motors are typically used in applications that require precise positioning for low duty cycle operating periods. Microstepping is used to decrease the size of the incremental motion to allow greater positioning accuracy. In the present application, a microstep motor drive is used to provide transport of film or paper webs in photographic apparatus continuously over varying time periods and at low speeds, e.g. 0-100 RPM. Use of a stepper motor avoids drawbacks associated with conventional AC or DC motors, such as the need for speed reducing apparatus and brush maintenance high customized motor designs for low speed operation. The use of microstepping operation reduces jerking motion of the drive shaft and conflict with the resonant frequency of the motor which would otherwise result in decreased torque and loss of synchronism during continuous operation.

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